

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:
 dynamically maintaining a plurality of organizational profiles
 containing business rules, a plurality of users each being associated with a
 particular organizational profile; and
 implementing a user requested transaction on a hosted e-
 procurement system with an application system by using the business rules
 stored in an organizational profile associated with the user.
2. A method as recited in claim 1 ,wherein the business rules include
 workflow.
3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the hosted e-procurement
 system is a shared executable hosted e-procurement system.
4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the application systems are
 financial systems
5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the business rules store
 information on integration preferences.

6. A method comprising:

dynamically maintaining a plurality of organizational profiles containing data definitions, a plurality of users each being associated with a particular organizational profile; and

implementing a user requested transaction on a hosted e-procurement system with an application system by using the data definition stored in an organizational profile associated with the user.

7. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the data definition comprises user defined field values.

8. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the implementing includes executing a particular routine for the data definition and uses the user defined field values.

9. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the hosted e-procurement system is a shared executable hosted e-procurement system.

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10. A method comprising:

dynamically maintaining a plurality of organizational profiles associated with users, each profile including business rules that include characteristics and approvers for those characteristics; and

upon receiving from a user a purchase request associated with purchase characteristics that match the characteristics of the profile corresponding to the user, automatically seeking approval from the approvers for the characteristics of the profile.

11. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the characteristics comprise product categories.

12. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the characteristics comprise dollar amount ranges.

13. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the business rules include

workflow rules in which approval is sought for multiple parties in a sequence.

14. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the receiving and seeking is performed by a hosted e-procurement system.

15. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the receiving and seeking is performed by a shared executable hosted e-procurement system.

16. A method as recited in claim 10, further comprising implementing the purchase request with a selected application system among a plurality of application systems.

17. A method as recited in claim 10, further comprising modifying the business rules using an organizational profile editor which modifies the organizational profile containing the business rules.

18. A method as recited in claim 17, wherein the modified business rules are used in the implementing without a need for recompiling a program which implements the business rules.

19. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein multiple organizational profiles are maintained for multiple users simultaneously.

20. A method as recited in claim 19, wherein each user is associated with one organizational profile.

21. A method as recited in claim 10, further comprising transmitting transaction information to one of a plurality of application systems, after all sought approvers consent to the purchase.

22. A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the application systems are financial systems.

23. A method as recited in claim 22, wherein financial systems comprise applications used to track and manage financial resources.

24. A method as in claim 22, further comprising transmitting purchase information to a supplier for the purchase after the financial system indicates a financial approval for the purchase.

25. A method comprising:

dynamically maintaining a plurality of organizational profiles associated with users, each profile including business rules that include characteristics and approvers for those characteristics;

upon receiving from a user a purchase request associated with purchase characteristics that match the characteristics of the profile corresponding to the user, automatically seeking approval from the approvers for the characteristics of the profile;

modifying the business rules using an organizational profile editor which modifies the organizational profile including the business rules; and

transmitting financial information to one of a plurality of financial systems after all sought approvers consent to the purchase,

wherein the characteristics comprise product categories and dollar amount ranges,

wherein the business rules include workflow rules in which approval is sought for multiple parties in a sequence,

wherein the method is performed by a resource management platform for a plurality of applications systems using one executable of the e-procurement system,

wherein the applications systems comprise financial systems;

wherein one executable comprises a single executable

program

running in memory on the e-procurement system;

wherein the modified business rules are used in the implementing without a need for recompiling a program which implements the business rules,

wherein multiple organizational profiles are maintained for multiple users simultaneously,

wherein each user is associated with one organizational profile,

wherein the financial system comprises an application used to track and manage financial resources.

26. A method comprising dynamically maintaining multiple organizational profiles which include business rules and workflow, in a single executable of an e-commerce application, and using the organization profiles to interact with a plurality of financial systems.

27. A method as recited in claim 26, wherein business rules comprise at least one rule to be applied before a transaction is approved.

28. A method comprising:

storing a plurality of organizational profiles containing business rules as objects, the business rules comprising product categories and approvers for the respective categories; and

executing a process implementing the plurality of stored business rules associated with the stored objects, on one executable of an e-procurement system.

29. A method comprising:

dynamically maintaining a plurality of organizational profiles containing integration preferences, a plurality of users each being associated with a particular organizational profile; and

using a shared executable hosted system to implement a user requested transaction with an application system using the integration preferences stored in the organizational profile associated with the user.

30. A method as recited in claim 29, wherein the application systems are financial systems

31. A method as recited in claim 30, wherein a financial system is a system used to track and manage financial resources.

32. A computer readable storage medium, storing a program instructing a computer to perform a method comprising:

dynamically maintaining a plurality of organizational profiles

containing data structures, a plurality of users each being associated with a particular organizational profile; and

implementing a user requested transaction on a hosted e-procurement system with an application system by using information from the data structures stored in an organizational profile associated with the user.

33. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 32, wherein the data structures store business rules.

34. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 33, wherein the business rules include workflow.

35. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 32, wherein the hosted e-procurement system is a shared executable hosted e-procurement system.

36. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 35, wherein the data structures store business rules.

37. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 36, wherein the business rules include workflow.

38. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 32, wherein the application systems are financial systems

39. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 38, wherein a financial system is a system used to track and manage financial resources.

40. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 32, wherein the data structures store information on requisition preferences.

41. A computer readable storage medium, storing a program to instruct a computer to perform a method comprising:

dynamically maintaining a plurality of organizational profiles associated with users, each profile including business rules that include characteristics and approvers for those characteristics; and

upon receiving from a user a purchase request associated with purchase characteristics that match the characteristics of the profile corresponding to the user, automatically seeking approval from the approvers for the characteristics of the profile.

42. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 41, wherein the characteristics comprise product categories.

43. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 41, wherein the characteristics comprise dollar amount ranges.

44. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 41, wherein the business rules include workflow rules in which approval is sought for multiple parties in a sequence.

45. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 41, wherein the receiving and seeking is performed by a hosted e-procurement system.

46. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 41, wherein the receiving and seeking is performed by a shared executable hosted e-procurement system.

47. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 41, further comprising implementing the purchase request with a selected application system among a plurality of application systems.

48. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 41, further comprising modifying the business rules using an organizational profile

editor which modifies the organizational profile containing the business rules.

49. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 48, wherein the modified business rules are used in the implementing without a need for recompiling a program which implements the business rules.

50. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 41, wherein multiple organizational profiles are maintained for multiple users simultaneously.

51. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 50, wherein each user is associated with one organizational profile.

52. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 41, further comprising transmitting transaction information to one of a plurality of application systems, after all seeked approvers consent to the purchase.

53. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 52, wherein the application systems are financial systems.

54. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 53, wherein financial systems comprise applications used to track and manage financial resources.

55. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 53, further comprising transmitting purchase information to a supplier for the purchase after the financial system indicates a financial approval for the purchase.

56. A computer readable storage medium, storing a program instructing a computer to perform a method comprising:

dynamically maintaining multiple organizational profiles which include business rules and workflow, in a single executable of an e-commerce application, and using the organization profiles to interact with a plurality of financial systems.

57. A computer readable storage as recited in claim 56, wherein business rules comprise at least one rule to be applied before a transaction is approved.

58. A computer readable storage medium, storing a program instructing a computer to perform a method comprising:

storing a plurality of organizational profiles containing business rules as objects, the business rules comprising product categories and approvers for the respective categories; and

executing a process implementing the plurality of stored business rules associated with the stored objects, on one executable of an e-procurement system.

59. A computer readable storage medium, storing a program instructing a computer to perform a method comprising:

dynamically maintaining a plurality of organizational profiles containing integration preferences, a plurality of users each being associated with a particular organizational profile; and

using a shared executable hosted system to implement a user requested transaction with an application system using the integration preferences stored in the organizational profile associated with the user.

60. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 59, wherein the application systems are financial systems

61. A computer readable storage medium as recited in claim 60, wherein a financial system is a system used to track and manage financial resources.

62. An apparatus comprising:

a storage device storing a plurality of dynamically maintained organizational profiles associated with users, each profile including business rules that include characteristics and approvers for those characteristics; and

a processor, upon receiving from a user a purchase request associated with purchase characteristics that match the characteristics of the profile corresponding to the user, automatically seeking approval from the approvers for the characteristics of the profile.
63. An apparatus as in claim 62, wherein the characteristics comprise product categories.
64. An apparatus as in claim 62, wherein the characteristics comprise dollar amount ranges.
65. An apparatus as in claim 62, wherein the business rules include workflow rules, which comprises multiple parties in which sequential consent is required during the implementing.
66. An apparatus as in claim 62, wherein the processor runs on a hosted e-procurement system.

67. An apparatus as in claim 62, wherein the processor runs on a shared executable hosted e-procurement system.

68. An apparatus as in claim 62, wherein multiple organizational profiles are maintained for multiple users simultaneously.

69. An apparatus as in claim 62, wherein each user is associated with one organizational profile.

70. An apparatus as in claim 62, further comprising a transmitting unit transmitting purchase information to one of a plurality of application systems, after all sought approvers consent to the purchase.

71. An apparatus is in claim 70, wherein application systems are financial systems.

72. An apparatus as in claim 71, wherein financial systems comprise applications used to track and manage financial resources.

73. An apparatus comprising:

a plurality of users, each user associated with a respective organizational profile of a plurality of dynamically maintained organizational profiles;

a plurality of application systems which perform transactions; and

a shared executable hosted e-procurement system storing the plurality of organizational profiles, and implementing a purchase request by a user with a selected application system using the organizational profile associated with the user.

74. An apparatus as recited in claim 73, wherein the organizational profiles contain business rules.

75. An apparatus as recited in claim 74, wherein the business rules also include workflow rules.

76. An apparatus as recited in claim 73, wherein the organizational profiles contain integration preferences.

77. An apparatus as recited in claim 73, wherein the organizational profiles contain accounting codes.

78. An apparatus comprising:

a storage unit storing a plurality of dynamically maintained organizational profiles, each organizational profile associated with any number of different users; and

a processing unit implementing a shared executable hosted e-procurement system, the processing unit receiving a purchase request from a user and implementing the purchase request with a selected application system of a plurality of application systems using the stored organizational profile associated with the user.

79. An apparatus as recited in claim 78, wherein the organizational profiles contain business rules.

80. An apparatus as recited in claim 79, wherein the business rules contain workflow rules.

81. An apparatus as recited in claim 78, wherein the organizational profiles contain integration preferences.

82. An apparatus as recited in claim 78, wherein the organizational profiles contain accounting codes.

83. An apparatus comprising:

a storage unit storing a plurality of dynamically maintained organizational profiles containing data structures, a plurality of users each being associated with a particular organizational profile; and

a processing unit implementing a hosted e-procurement system, the processing unit receiving a user requested transaction and implementing the transaction with an application system by using information from the data structures stored in an organizational profile associated with the user.

84. An apparatus as recited in claim 83, wherein the data structures store business rules.

85. An apparatus as recited in claim 84, wherein the business rules include workflow.

86. An apparatus as recited in claim 83, wherein the hosted e-procurement system is a shared executable hosted e-procurement system.

87. An apparatus as recited in claim 86, wherein the data structures store business rules.

88. An apparatus as recited in claim 87, wherein the business rules include workflow.

89. An apparatus as recited in claim 83, wherein the application systems are financial systems.

90. An apparatus as recited in claim 89, wherein a financial system is a system used to track and manage financial resources.

91. An apparatus as recited in claim 83, wherein the data structures store information on requisition preferences.

92. An apparatus as recited in claim 83, wherein the application is selected from a plurality of application systems.

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